



Tropical Rainforests can Survive Global Warming

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A recent study by IIT Kharagpur reveals [tropical rainforests'](#) potential resilience to [global warming](#).

- The study examined **fossilised tropical rainforests from Gujarat's Vastan coal mines**, dating **back 56 million years** to the **Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM)**, an era of extreme global warming.
 - The coal layers in Vastan are fossilised tropical rainforests with rich plant, pollen, mammal, and insect remains from the **PETM era** when India was a tropical island **with high CO₂ levels**.
 - **PETM**, a short interval of maximum temperature lasting approximately 100,000 years during the late Paleocene and early **Eocene epochs (roughly 55 million years ago)**.
- Despite high atmospheric CO₂ **during the PETM, tropical rainforests not only survived but diversified**, likely sustained by "**rainfall-buffered temperature**"
 - **Rainfall-Buffered Temperature**: Increased rainfall during warming periods likely lowered temperatures, sustaining the rainforests.
- **Rainforest**: A [rainforest](#) is an area densely populated with tall, mostly evergreen trees (e.g [Amazon](#) and [Western Ghats](#)) and receives substantial rainfall.
 - They are primarily situated between tropics (**Cancer** and **Capricorn**). These rainforests are found in Central and South America, western and central Africa, western India, Southeast Asia, the island of New Guinea, and Australia.

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